

On motion of Mr. Burnett the rules were suspended to admit the reading of the following message from the Governor :

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
AUSTIN, Texas, July 11, 1870.

To Hon. IRA H. EVANS,

Speaker of the House of Representatives :

SIR: I respectfully return to your House, where it originated, the bill entitled "An Act to incorporate the Galveston Bay Dredging Company.", I find this act objectionable in the following respects :

1. The amount of tolls allowed to be charged on commerce passing up and out of Trinity River is excessive. From the best information I can get, it is probable that these tolls would amount, on the commerce now passing through the channel it is proposed to deepen, to not less than thirty thousand dollars per annum. The probable cost of deepening this channel, so that crafts now able to navigate Galveston Bay below the bar, which it is proposed to deepen, will not exceed ten to fifteen thousand dollars, and the subsequent annual expenditure for keeping the channel open could scarcely exceed a third of this sum.

2. No provision in the act prescribes the quantity or quality of the dredging to be done by the company. The company may deepen the channel six inches or six feet, and will be equally entitled to make commerce pay these heavy tolls. It is true section four may be construed to mean that the company must make or improve the channel before charge can be made; but an "improvement" to a channel is too vague a term, and may amount to little or nothing of substantial good.

In my opinion the granting of this charter will result very injuriously to the trade of Galveston and Trinity River.

Having these views, I feel constrained to veto the said act.

Respectfully,

EDMUND J. DAVIS,
Governor.

On motion of Mr. Hawkins the consideration of the Governor's